

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 21085.0044U3
International Application No. PCT/US04/01298

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A method of increasing cytosolic Ca^{2+} levels in an airway epithelial cell comprising contacting P2X receptors on the cell with an effective amount of Zn^{2+} .
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the P2X receptors are not contacted with zincum gluconium.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the Zn^{2+} is in the form of zinc chloride.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising
 - (a) contacting the cell with an effective amount of ATP,
 - (b) reducing the cell's extracellular Na^+ or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with low Na^+ ,
 - (c) alkalizing the cell's extracellular fluid or contacting the cell with an alkaline solution containing Zn^+ ,
 - (d) reducing the cell's extracellular Mg^{2+} or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with low Mg^{2+} ,
 - (e) increasing the cell's extracellular Ca^{2+} or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with high Ca^{2+} , or
 - (f) any combination of steps a-e.

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13. (Original) A method of treating an airway disease in a subject, comprising contacting epithelial cells in the trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, or alveoli of a subject with an effective amount of Zn^{2+} .
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising
- (a) contacting the cell with an effective amount of ATP,
 - (b) reducing the cell's extracellular Na^+ or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with low Na^+ ,
 - (c) alkalinizing the cell's extracellular fluid or contacting the cell with an alkaline solution containing Zn^+ ,
 - (d) reducing the cell's extracellular Mg^{2+} or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with low Mg^{2+} ,
 - (e) increasing the cell's extracellular Ca^{2+} or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with high Ca^{2+} , or
 - (f) any combination of steps a-e.
22. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the contacting step is performed with an Zn^{2+} -containing inhalant, nebulization, aerosol, or instillant.
23. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the zinc is in the form of zinc chloride (ZnCl_2).
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)

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27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (Canceled)
32. (Canceled)
33. (Canceled)
34. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising
- (a) contacting the cell with an effective amount of ATP,
 - (b) reducing the cell's extracellular Na^+ or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with low Na^+ ,
 - (c) alkalizing the cell's extracellular fluid or contacting the cell with an alkaline solution containing Zn^+ ,
 - (d) reducing the cell's extracellular Mg^{2+} or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with low Mg^{2+} ,
 - (e) increasing the cell's extracellular Ca^{2+} or contacting the cell with a Zn^{2+} containing solution with high Ca^{2+} , or
 - (f) any combination of steps a-e.
35. (Canceled)
36. (Canceled)
37. (Original) A composition comprising zinc and a saline solution, wherein the saline solution has low Na^+ , is enriched with Ca^{2+} , and is modified to an alkaline pH.
38. (Currently Amended) A nasal spray, nebulizer, or aerosol inhaler comprising the composition of claim 37.
39. (Canceled)
40. (Canceled)
41. (Original) The composition of claim 37, wherein the zinc is not in the form of zincum gluconium.

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42. (Original) A method of treating a bacterial infection in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 37.
43. (Original) A method of reducing inflammation in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 37.
44. (Original) A method of treating polycystic kidney disease in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 37.
45. (Original) A method of treating a subject with an endocrine disorder, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 37.
46. (Canceled)
47. (Canceled)
48. (Original) A method of screening for an airway epithelial Ca^{2+} entry channel agonist, comprising
- (a) contacting an airway epithelial cell with a test compound;
 - (b) detecting calcium levels in the airway epithelial cell; and
 - (c) screening for a sustained elevation in calcium as compared to a control level, indicating an airway epithelial Ca^{2+} entry channel agonist.
49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the Ca^{2+} entry channel is selected from the group consisting of a P2X purinergic receptor Ca^{2+} entry channel, a transient receptor potential (TRP) Ca^{2+} entry channel, a store-operated Ca^{2+} (SOC) entry channel, a calcium release activated channel (ICRAC), and a CAT-1 Ca^{2+} entry channel.
50. (Original) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step of:
- (d) screening for reversibility of response by removing the agonist during the assay.
51. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of:
- (e) screening for dependence upon extracellular Ca^{2+} by repeating the assay in a solution devoid of extracellular Ca^{2+} .
52. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the airway epithelial cell is a cystic fibrosis airway epithelial cell.

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- 53. (Canceled)
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- 55. (Canceled)
- 56. (Canceled)
- 57. (Canceled)
- 58. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the airway epithelial cell is in a solution containing an effective amount of ATP.
- 59. (Canceled)
- 60. (Canceled)
- 61. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the airway epithelial cell is in a solution containing an effective amount of zinc.
- 62. (Canceled)
- 63. (Canceled)
- 64. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the airway epithelial cell is in an alkaline solution.
- 65. (Canceled)
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